

# News from Ed Markey

United States Congress

Massachusetts Seventh District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 29, 2005

CONTACT: Tara McGuinness

Morgan Gray

(202) 225-2836

## REP. MARKEY DENOUNCES GUTTING OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

*Markey: “The Only Species Not Endangered by these Changes to the ESA  
is the Red Herring”*

**Washington, D.C.** – Today House Republicans voted to destroy the Endangered Species Act (ESA) which has, for over 30 years, protected the nation’s threatened and endangered species. The House-passed H.R. 3824 with a vote of (229-Y, 193-N) which will significantly reduce the ability of the government to enforce protections for habitat needed by endangered species for recovery. Representative Edward J. Markey, a senior member of the House Resources Committee, blasted the move to rollback these key environmental protections.

“A major factor forcing threatened and endangered species towards extinction is the loss and deterioration of habitat necessary for survival. We cannot expect a species to recover without first ensuring that it has the habitat in which to do so,” said Rep. Markey, who offered an amendment in the Resources Committee which would have restored habitat protections for endangered species.

“We have arrived at a situation where this bill will designate habitat for endangered species, but provide no real way for those designations to be enforced. Ultimately, this bill will leave the responsibility to protect endangered species up to developers. It doesn’t take Dick Tracy to figure out that for these big companies, their desire to make a profit might outweigh their desire to protect endangered species. The only species not endangered by this bill’s changes to current law is the red herring,” Markey concluded.

For more information on how Representative Markey’s work to protect endangered species and wildlife check out: <http://www.house.gov/markey/>